



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 May 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to TIME's sources a commando team posing as terrorists attacked and penetrated the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a nuclear research facility in California, quickly overpowering its defenses to reach a mock payload of fissile material. The exercise exposed a number of security vulnerabilities at the Lab. (See item [10](#))
- ComputerWorld reports that over half a million Web sites have been compromised in a new round of attacks that hacked domains in order to infect PCs with malware. The hack exploits a vulnerability in "phpBB," an open-source message forum manager. (See item [39](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 13, Bloomberg* – (International) **Oil rises to record on signs refiners not meeting fuel demand.** Crude oil for June delivery rose two percent, to \$126.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices have more than doubled in the past year. Supplies of distillates in developed countries fell 6.7 percent to 477.6 million barrels in March from last year, according to International Energy Agency estimates. U.S. distillate supplies in the week ended May 2 were 2.6 percent below the five-year

average, the U.S. Energy Department said May 7. “There’s continuing concern about the global call on distillate fuels,” said an executive at MF Global Ltd. “I don’t know if we are going to see any actual shortage, but we are sure pricing it that way.”

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aLSOVXA2d7Oc&refer=energy>

2. *May 13, WOFL 35 Orlando* – (Florida) **Brevard fires grow, Volusia contained.** Wildfires burned into the early morning Tuesday across Florida’s Atlantic coast. The governor of Florida declared a state of emergency Monday as dry, windy weather worsened conditions. A spokesperson with Florida Power & Light says about 8,291 customers are without power in Brevard County. Power has been restored to most areas impacted by the fire in Volusia County.
Source: <http://www.myfoxorlando.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6527440&version=11&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>
3. *May 12, Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Mid-Atlantic rain prompts outages.** Heavy rain drenched the mid-Atlantic region Monday, knocking out power to tens of thousands of customers. Up to five inches of rain fell across the region from Sunday afternoon into Monday, with another half-inch possible in some areas. Utilities reported 50,000 customers without power in Maryland, nearly 50,000 in New Jersey, more than 23,000 in Delaware, 16,000 in Virginia, and 4,500 in the District of Columbia. Power already had been restored to many of those customers by early afternoon.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24580862/>
4. *May 13, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Long-burning mine fire in northeast Pa. is finally contained.** Officials say a coal mine fire that has been burning underground for years in Lackawanna County is now contained. A trench that surrounds the Dolph Colliery mine fire in Olyphant was finished a few weeks ago. The trench is intended to isolate the flames and keep them from spreading. Some say, however, it will take 20 to 30 years for the fire to burn itself out. Mining officials say the fire goes down 165 feet in some spots. The project has cost \$11 million, and the Office of Surface Mining says it would cost many millions more to fully extinguish the fire.
Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1388381~Long_burning_mine_fire_in_northeast_Pa_is_finally_contained.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *May 13, ICIS News and Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Europe firms halt China production after quake.** Many European chemical companies have halted production at their China plants as a result of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake which has killed around 12,000 people, they said on Tuesday. Kemira’s 20,000 tonne/year polyaluminium chloride plant in Chongqing is one of the hundreds of chemical plants and factories in the affected area that have been closed following the earthquake.

A spokesman for the Finnish company said the plant had been shut as a precaution on Monday night but it had been hoped it could be reopened on Tuesday if the authorities gave permission. “There have been no injuries or equipment damaged at the plant,” he added. Companies in the region would not be able to restart production until it was deemed safe, the Chinese State Administration of Work Safety said on its website. Akzo Nobel’s powder coatings plant in Chengdu has also been shut down, a spokeswoman for the Dutch company said. “The amount of damage is unknown - we don’t get a lot of information out of there,” she added. The plant’s workers had not been injured and had been sent home as it has been closed until further notice, she said. A BASF spokeswoman said the company had suffered some damage at its concrete chemicals plant in the provincial capital Chengdu but none of its employees was injured. While production had been halted on Monday it had resumed full production, a BASF spokesman said. BP said its joint venture acetyls plant was back up although a company spokesman said communication with the area was difficult at the moment. The earthquake has also severely disrupted chemicals production and rail and road transport links in the region. The two damaged chemical plants, which buried hundreds of people and are forcing the evacuation of more than 6,000 people nearby, are located in Shifeng, about 30 miles from the epicenter of the quake in Sichuan province.

Sources: <http://www.icis.com/Articles/2008/05/13/9123561/europe-firms-halt-china-production-after-quake.html> and <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/world/view/20080512-136134/China-quake-hits-chemical-plant-hundreds-buried--Xinhua>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *May 13, Patriot Ledger* – (Massachusetts) **Union will be forced to leave nuclear plant if contract agreement is not reached.** Entergy Corp. plans to bar roughly 250 Pilgrim nuclear power plant workers from the site if a new contract agreement cannot be reached by the time their current contract expires at the end of the day Thursday. The Utility Workers Union of America Local 369 plans to hold a vote Wednesday that would give the union’s negotiators the authority to go on strike at the Entergy plant. Entergy has informed the union’s leaders that the union workers covered by the contract will not be allowed back to work if the contract expires at the end of the day Thursday without a new agreement. The union is making plans for picket lines at other Entergy nuclear plants if the deadline is not met. “We’re going to selectively picket these plants,” said the president of Local 369. “I think this company is going to be very surprised.”
Source: <http://www.patriotledger.com/business/x1880505285/Union-will-be-forced-to-leave-nuclear-plant-if-contract-agreement-isn-t-reached>
7. *May 13, Brattleboro Reformer* – (Vermont) **NRC rates VY safety.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) met with Entergy officials Monday evening to discuss the annual performance assessment of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. After inspections at the facility from January 1 to December 31, 2007, the NRC said the cornerstone objectives were fully met and that Entergy managed the plant in a safe manner. The NRC noted several findings with the issue of maintenance, including the

inadequate inspection program that resulted in the partial collapse of a non-safety related cooling tower cell in August 2007 and the troubleshooting due to inadequate preventive maintenance on a main turbine stop valve.

Source: http://www.reformer.com/headlines/ci_9241489

8. *May 13, Reuters* – (New Jersey) **PSEG shuts NJ Salem 2 reactor.** Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. shut Unit 2 at the Salem nuclear power station from 80 percent on May 12, due to an instrument problem related to the steam generator flow channels, a spokesman for the company said Tuesday. He could not say when the unit would restart noting workers were still investigating the cause of the problem. At the time of the May 12 shutdown, the unit was increasing power following a May 9 outage. Operators manually shut the unit on May 9 from 47 percent due to high steam generator level. At the time of the May 9 shutdown, the unit was increasing power after exiting a refueling outage earlier in the week. During the refuel, workers replaced the unit's four steam generators in addition to the usual refueling activities.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1334287720080513>

9. *May 13, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **Duke Energy identifies vibration at Oconee Nuclear Station.** Duke Energy says it has figured out what caused unusual coolant pump vibrations at a reactor at the Oconee Nuclear Station. The Greenville News reported Tuesday a Duke spokesperson said the vibrations occurred because one of the four pumps was out of service. One pump had a small oil leak and had been shut down before the scheduled April 12 reactor shutdown. The change from four pumps to three caused the slightly higher vibration. The utility has replaced seals of all four pumps on the reactor. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was sending a team to the station Tuesday to study Duke's finding.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/staterwire/story/403552.html>

10. *May 12, Time* – (California) **Security flaws exposed at nuke lab.** A recent simulated terror attack tested the defenses of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. TIME's sources say a commando team posing as terrorists attacked and penetrated the lab one night, quickly overpowering its defenses to reach its "objective" – a mock payload of fissile material. The exercise highlighted a number of serious security shortcomings at Livermore, including the failure of a hydraulic system essential to operating an extremely lethal Gatling gun that protects the facility. Critics have argued that the entire process of conducting "force-on-force" simulations at Livermore is flawed because the exercise does not adequately approximate conditions that would pertain during a real attack. Moreover, nothing in the "force-on-force" exercises simulates the danger posed by Livermore being situated beneath the flight path to several nearby airports. "We do not believe the [nuclear] materials at Livermore are at risk, and we do believe that security is strong," a U.S. Energy Department spokesperson said. "But we're also interested in examining any deficiencies, which is the purpose of these routine exercises."

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1739535,00.html>

11. *May 12, Reuters* – (Kansas) **Wolf Creek heats up Kansas reactor.** Wolf Creek Nuclear

Operating Corp. cooled the Wolf Creek reactor from hot standby mode to hot shutdown mode on May 11, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. Operators said they cooled the plant due to excessive leakage from the residual heat removal system to the hot leg injection relief valve. On May 9, the reactor started to exit a refueling outage and heated up to hot shutdown mode but had to remain there because both trains of the residual heat removal system were inoperable.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1225072520080512>

12. *May 12, Miami Herald* – (Florida) **Nuclear watchdog to visit Turkey Point.** The chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will tour the Turkey Point nuclear plant on Tuesday. Security will be on the agenda, as well as Florida Power & Light's plans to upgrade power output of the two existing reactors and add two more by 2020. Also on the table: other operating issues that have not risen to the level of formal violations, including recent NRC inspections noting excessive overtime for plant operators – with some working 72-hour, or even 80-hour weeks.

Source: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami_dade/south/story/529533.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *May 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Exchange program helps services acquire laser missiles for free.** The producer of the laser-guided AGM-65 Maverick missile, Raytheon Corp., is recycling unused missiles in the military's inventory to help services acquire needed weapons at almost no cost. Through a "replacement exchange in-kind" program overseen by the Government Services Administration, the company refurbishes and upgrades existing Mavericks and sells them to international customers. Part of the proceeds is placed in a credit pool, which the services can use to buy newer or different variants of missiles, says the Maverick program director. The program so far has raised more than \$81 million in exchange credits and company executives expect \$30 to \$70 million more credits from projected sales. The military services can apply those credits to weapons deemed urgently necessary – in this case, laser-guided Mavericks, which Raytheon completed delivery of 12 years ago. The exchange program will enable Raytheon to restart its laser Maverick product line to meet military commanders' requests and bolster the services' inventories.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/Exchange.htm>

14. *May 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Polymer magazine developed for assault rifle.** At the request of military and law enforcement agencies, Lancer Systems has developed a translucent polymer, 30-round magazine for the M16 rifle that is as durable as metal counterparts. The magazine features steel feed lips and a removable rubber coated bottom with bullet count markers at 20 and 30 rounds.

Source:

<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/TechTalk.htm#Smoke>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

15. *May 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Pfizer: personal information on employees on stolen laptop.** There has been another computer security breach at Pfizer Inc., this time it is the theft of a laptop containing information on thousands of employees, including 5,000 in Connecticut. It is the second such breach in a month. Information on Pfizer employees was compromised when a company laptop and flash drive were stolen from an employee's vehicle about a month ago, the company said Monday. The company would not identify the location of the theft. More than 65,000 data-breach notifications have been sent out by Pfizer over the past year. The company has told affected employees, including many at Pfizer Global Research and Development campuses in Groton and New London, Connecticut, that no Social Security numbers were on the encrypted laptop in the latest theft. But names, home addresses, home telephone numbers, employee identification numbers, positions and salaries are on an unencrypted flash drive. The flash drive contained two worldwide reports with information from various Pfizer divisions, including animal health, finance, human resources, legal and medical, in addition to the local R&D headquarters, which employs about 5,500 people in Groton and New London, according to the company.
Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/statewire/hc-13082446.apds.m0488.bc-ct--pfizmay13,0,4716149.story>
16. *May 13, Bloomberg* – (National) **SEC warns exchanges about overstating market share, people say.** Nasdaq OMX Group Inc. and NYSE Euronext were warned by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) against inflating monthly market-share figures to lure business, people with direct knowledge of the matter said. The head of the SEC trading and markets division sent letters to the exchanges last month cautioning them not to overstate trading volumes, the sources said. The letters said exaggerated press releases could mislead investors and help exchanges draw customers, according to the people, who declined to be identified because the correspondence was private. At issue are about 1.86 billion shares that brokerages pair off for customers outside of an exchange. The official's letters expressed concern exchanges may take credit for those trades, which are only reported after completion in one of the three so-called Trade Reporting Facilities, the people said.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aUZk4aT6RxOY&refer=home>
17. *May 13, Buffalo News* – (National) **Small businesses to get refunded for online directory scam.** A New York City-based business has been penalized \$150,000 and ordered to pay up to \$3 million in restitution to small businesses in Western New York and across the country. Bright Pages, LLC, an online directory service, sent out correspondence to tens of thousands of current Yellow Pages customers, emblazoned with the words "Yellow Pages" and its "walking fingers" logo. What looked like surveys asking for verification of existing account status with Yellow Pages were actually order forms to buy listings with Bright Pages. Once the forms were filled out and returned, customers were charged \$77 per month or \$231 per quarter for the listings.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/258/story/345597.html>

18. *May 12, Reuters* – (National) **JPMorgan may face SEC civil charges.** JPMorgan Chase & Co said on Monday that it received a notice from federal regulators indicating that one of its units may face an enforcement action related to “the bidding of various financial instruments associated with municipal securities.” Last month, Bear Stearns Cos, which JPMorgan is buying, also got a notice from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission indicating possible civil charges, stemming from anti-competitive activity relating to bidding for municipal securities. It was unclear whether there was any relationship between the two investigations.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSWEN570020080512>
19. *May 12, Wall Street Journal (subscription)* – (National) **Wachovia’s auction-rate securities are probed by U.S., state regulators.** Wachovia Corp. confirmed that its Wachovia Securities LLC and other affiliates received inquiries and subpoenas from the Securities and Exchange Commission and several state regulators regarding auction-rate securities. The firm said the regulators are seeking information concerning the underwriting, and sale and subsequent auctions of municipal auction-rate securities.
Source:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121060269753685269.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
20. *May 12, WFIE 14 Tri-State and KFDA 10 Amarillo* – (National) **Major disasters ravage the world.** From cyclones to tornadoes to quakes, the recent disasters have created an immediate need for help. The Red Cross in Evansville, Indiana, is one of several international agencies that send relief supplies and volunteers to areas that need it. Disasters such as Monday morning’s quake in China are still being assessed, but if people decide to donate, it is important to do their homework on the organization they choose. Donors can contact the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for information on several reputable non-profits. Red Cross officials said, especially now, money is needed. The BBB is offering eight tips to ensure aid goes to the right people, including those affected by the cyclone in Myanmar. They are: 1) Rely on Expert Opinion when it comes to evaluating a charity. 2) Find out if the charity has an on the ground continuing presence in Myanmar. 3) Find out who will benefit in Myanmar and what type of assistance they will be provided. 4) Be wary of claims that 100 percent of donations will assist Myanmar victims. 5) Find out if the charity is providing direct aid or raising money for other groups that are active in Myanmar. 6) Be cautious of giving online. 7) Gifts of clothing food or other in kind donations are not recommended. 8) If tax deduction is a concern, donate domestically.
Sources: <http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=8312900> and
<http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=8304801>
21. *May 12, News Day* – (National) **5,000 Dave and Buster’s customers targeted by hackers.** An international computer hacking gang broke into the computerized cash registers electronically at the Dave and Buster’s restaurant in Islandia, New York, and stole credit card information of 5,000 customers -- starting a flood of at least \$600,000 worth of fraudulent purchases around the world, federal prosecutors said Monday. The

remote break-in last year at the restaurant was part of an overall attack on the Dave and Buster's chain, which has 49 locations in the United States. It was not immediately determined if any other attacks on the Dave and Buster's chain were successful. The gang members apparently made thousands of attacks, attempting to break into computer systems around the world, including 10 other Dave and Buster's locations. The gang sold the credit card information to other unidentified people who made the actual purchases, officials said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/suffolk/ny-lihack0513,0,1200397.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

22. *May 13, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Homeland Security to train police to counter roadside bombs.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is holding a workshop in Fayetteville, North Carolina, to teach local law enforcement agencies how to handle roadside bombs. The department's Office of Bombing Prevention will host Tuesday's workshop. Police, sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement agents will learn how to identify the bombs and how to protect against them. Although no roadside bomb attacks have been reported in the U.S., experts say they could be a future threat. The workshop is part of the IED 2008 Symposium and Expo, an annual meeting held near Fort Bragg to discuss ways to counter the bombs.
Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/2872208/>
23. *May 12, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Airport reopened after bomb threat.** A terminal at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport has reopened after being closed Monday morning when a bomb threat was reported on a Northwest Airlines flight departing from New Orleans. Officials said the plane, Flight 630 to Memphis, Tennessee, was checked and found to be safe. The threat came in at 6 a.m. to the flight, which was boarding out of Gate A1, WDSU NewsChannel 6 reported. Officials said that passengers were allowed to reboard after going through a lengthy screening process. Authorities said there would be heightened security at the airport Monday.
Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/news/16237509/detail.html>
24. *May 12, San Antonio Business Journal* – (National) **FAA approves new navigational safety system on Mooney airplanes.** The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized Mooney Airplane Co. to use a new satellite-based navigational system on three of the company's aircraft. The designation means that the company can start selling aircraft with the equipment installed. The Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)-aided navigation and Safe-Taxi software will provide additional safety to pilots and ease pilot workloads during Instrument Meteorological Condition or high-traffic environments both in the air and on the ground, according to company officials. WAAS technology uses satellite-based navigational aids to give pilots precise lateral and vertical approach guidance.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/stories/2008/05/12/daily7.html>
25. *May 12, Star Tribune* – (South Dakota) **Gusset plate worries strike a 4th bridge in**

Upper Midwest. Another bridge in the Upper Midwest is having trouble with its gusset plates, at least the fourth since last summer's bridge collapse in Minneapolis. This one is near Yankton, South Dakota, about 100 miles southwest of the Minnesota border. A 10-ton gross weight limit is now in effect on the Meridian Bridge on Hw. 81 over the Missouri River in Yankton, the transportation officials in South Dakota and Nebraska said. Vehicles heavier than 10 tons now are finding alternate routes over the Missouri, where it flows between South Dakota and Nebraska. A recent routine inspection revealed that "corrosion on the gusset plates had progressed to a point that heavy load restrictions are warranted," the transportation officials said. The corrosion was detected several years ago on a routine bridge inspection "and had been periodically monitored ever since," the officials said. Monitoring of the bridge will continue while temporary repair options are being investigated.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/18859529.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *May 12, Cattle Network* – (Northeast) **New York firm recalls ground beef products.** Fairbank Reconstruction Corp. is voluntarily recalling approximately 22,481 pounds of ground beef products that may contain pieces of plastic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today. The products were produced on May 3, and were distributed to retail establishments in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. The problem was discovered after the company received consumer complaints. No injuries have been reported at this time.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=220927>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

27. *May 12, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **NJ weighs action to curb drugs in drinking water.** New Jersey lawmakers Monday will look into whether trace amounts of medications found in the state's drinking water can adversely affect human health and wildlife. They also will consider what can be done to minimize any fears. The Assembly hearing follows a five-month-long inquiry by the Associated Press' National Investigative Team, which found water suppliers usually do not tell customers how screening found medication in their water. Some of the most detailed testing was done at the Passaic Valley Water Commission in northern Jersey, where a drinking water treatment facility downstream from numerous sewage treatment plants chemically removes sediments from water. It then disinfects it with chlorine and runs it through the

extra filtering step.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/5772656.html>

28. *May 12, United Press International* – (National) **U.S. water data to be standardized.** U.S. scientists say they have started an initiative to create the first comprehensive data management system for the nation's water supply. The Hydrologic Information System (HIS) is designed to supply the hundreds of municipal, state, and federal agencies that control the nation's water resources with a common set of procedures for data collection, analysis, and reporting. Of the many existing hydrologic databases, "most... are incompatible with each other," said an architect of the HIS project. "Despite water being such a precious commodity... researchers still don't have an accurate assessment of just how much water we have as a nation," he said.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/05/12/us_water_data_to_be_standardized/7373/

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

29. *May 13, KSWT 13 Yuma*– (Arizona) **West Nile virus threat in the desert south west.** The first mosquito sample in Arizona this year has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus. "We found a sample from just in front of the Yuma Proving Grounds main entrance that was infected," says the Yuma County Pest Abatement District Manager. The sample was collected on April 28th and is cause for concern. Officials will now take measures to reduce adult mosquitoes along the Colorado River.

Source: <http://www.kswt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8314221>

30. *May 12, BBC* – (National) **Antidote to lethal germ 'closer'.** With funding from the U.S. government, researchers at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, New York, and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), Maryland, have broken through a barrier towards developing an effective antidote against the most potent form of botulinum toxin – one of the world's most feared biological weapons. Defense experts say that just one gram of the poison can kill hundreds of thousands of people. Several people each year fall victim to "botulism" from food poisoning. The researchers have developed a protein that blocks the effects of the toxin by tricking it into not attacking cells in the body. The U.S. team's findings appear in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7395731.stm>

31. *May 12, Medical News Today*– (National) **Treatment could be the nation's first line of defense against terrorist smallpox outbreak.** The La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology (LIAI) has received a \$7.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund safety and effectiveness testing of an antibody treatment that quickly fights the smallpox virus. The treatment could be the nation's first line of defense in protecting against a terrorist-originated smallpox outbreak and may eventually be stockpiled nationwide alongside the smallpox vaccine. "This work is

particularly important because those younger than 36 years old in the U.S. population have not been vaccinated against smallpox, which makes the need for a strong and fast-acting treatment all the more vital should we ever face a smallpox outbreak,” said LIAI’s president and scientific director. The smallpox virus has been the subject of intense research interest worldwide in the last several years, prompted by bioterrorism concerns. The virus was mostly eradicated in the U.S. early in the 20th century and vaccinations for the general public were ended in 1972. But in the aftermath of 9-11, new concerns have arisen that the smallpox virus could be used as a bioterrorist agent. Disease experts fear that samples of the smallpox virus may have fallen into the hands of terrorists or dangerous countries at some point. This concern has led to the creation of worldwide stockpiles of the smallpox vaccine over the last several years.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/107029.php>

Government Facilities Sector

32. *May 13, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **Suspicious device found at U.S. naval reservation in Barrio Logan.** A bomb threat and subsequent discovery of a suspicious object prompted evacuations at a construction site on the edge of the U.S. Naval Reservation in Barrio Logan Monday, authorities reported. Military officials notified San Diego police about the threatening message shortly before 10 a.m., a San Diego Police Department spokesperson said. Authorities cleared everyone out of a construction area and sent in an explosives team and police officers with service dogs to search three large, vacant structures on the lot. Police found the possible explosive device in one of the buildings in the early afternoon and sent for a bomb squad. Explosives-handling experts had the object safely removed from the area by about 4 p.m., a dispatcher said. It was not immediately clear if it was a bomb, a mock device, or something else altogether. Source: http://www.fox6.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=dec0287a-085b-4230-abd1-359e87e1a8f0
33. *May 13, Times-Standard* – (California) **Suspicious packages close six HSU buildings.** In California, finals week at Humboldt State University (HSU) got off to a rocky start Monday due to a bomb scare that led to the evacuation of six buildings on campus, the reported work of some campus pranksters. An HSU spokesman said the University Police Department received word at about 8 a.m. of a suspicious box, with the words “I will destroy your city” written on the outside, perched high on the exterior of the Science B building. In addition to the suspicious box at Science B, authorities reported another between the campus’ Music and Art buildings and a third outside the Natural Resources and Science building. All the boxes were found to be empty when X-rayed by Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office bomb technicians. The spokesman said three HSU students approached the University Police Department window at about 12:30 p.m., first saying they had information in connection with the incident and later copping to being personally responsible. The students said they placed the boxes in the three locations because they thought they would be “interesting” to the casual passerby or observer. Source: http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_9241974

Emergency Services Sector

34. *May 13, WSAZ 3 Huntington* – (Ohio) **Only a drill.** Emergency responders in Scioto County, Ohio, conducted a drill Tuesday simulating a terrorist attack with a dirty bomb. The annual disaster drill took place near the Sunoco Chemical Plant in Green Township. A number of local fire and police agencies participated, along with along with U.S. Coast Guard.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/18890414.html>

35. *May 13, Ithaca Journal* – (New York) **First responders train on model city.** First responders near Ithaca, New York, have taken their training to class in a partnership with Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) and Onondaga Community College (OCC). In April the responders began Public Safety Critical Incident Management training at TC3. A key part of the training involved using a tabletop model city to simulate emergency scenarios, said the assistant fire and emergency management director for Tompkins County. About 20 emergency first responders and personnel from the county sheriff's office, county emergency response office, Dryden Police Department, Ithaca Police Department, Dryden Fire Department, Ithaca Fire Department, Bangs Ambulance, Slaterville Fire and Ambulance, Ithaca College Public Safety Office, BorgWarner, and Cayuga Medical Center took part in the training. The purpose of the training is to build collaboration and understanding between emergency responders for faster and more efficient response to emergencies. While the model city simulated emergency situations, the responders used their radios to communicate and solve them and avoid duplicated efforts.

Source:

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080513/NEWS01/805130309/1002>

36. *May 12, WJAC 6 Johnstown* – (Pennsylvania) **Cambria County 911 unexpectedly goes off-line.** Cambria County 911 unexpectedly went off-line at about 6:30 p.m. Monday. According to the 911 executive director, a new generator was being put into the building, when the contractors ran into some type of malfunction. The problem drained both backups: the generator and the battery. Officials called for emergency personnel throughout the county to man their stations to handle phone calls. Also, a mobile command unit was brought up from Johnstown to give 911 dispatchers a place to work and communicate with fire, police, and EMT crews until the problem could be fixed. 911 calls were also re-routed to Somerset County dispatch for a time. It is unclear exactly how long the center was completely off-line, or if any emergency calls were left unanswered. Officials said there will be a thorough investigation of the incident.

Source: <http://www.wjactv.com/news/16246867/detail.html>

Information Technology

37. *May 13, ComputerWorld Malaysia* – (International) **US \$13 million grant approved to fight cyber-terrorism.** Malaysia's Prime Minister has approved a US \$13 million grant to lay the foundation of IMPACT, a not-for-profit global organization to rally efforts from governments, the private sector, and academia worldwide, against the growing threat of cyber-terrorism. IMPACT (International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Terrorism) is the first collaborative global public-private initiative against cyber-terrorism. The start-up grant will be used to construct the IMPACT building in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, and operations are expected to start in December, 2008. The IMPACT initiative was formally announced in 2006 by Malaysia's prime minister at the closing ceremony of the previous World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) held in the US. The acting Chief Operations Officer and Head of the Center for Training & Skills Development of IMPACT said the original announcement acknowledged that cyber and online infrastructure could also be vulnerable to other conventional forms of terrorism. IMPACT is currently building two systems for its member countries. The Early Warning System will aggregate 'feeds' from its security partners and member countries, which will be redistributed across the world to member countries. The collaboration system is a secure electronic platform enabling experts from member countries to collaborate with one another based on their specialty and niche areas (such as to address security issues of legacy systems utilized by some member countries), such that members are able to collaborate in a secure way based on the fact that each expert is accredited to each government. "In the event of an issue among our members, IMPACT hopes to be able to quickly put together a team of experts from all over the world to address the issues or the challenges ahead," said one representative.

Source:

<http://computerworld.com.my/ShowPage.aspx?pagetype=2&articleid=8274&pubid=4&issueid=135>

38. *May 13, TechWorld.com* – (International) **Srizbi grows into world's largest botnet.** The prodigious Srizbi botnet has continued to grow and now accounts for up to 50 percent of the spam being filtered by one security company. If the latest figures from security company Marshall can be taken at face value – their engines scan much the same traffic as do others in the industry – then Srizbi is now the biggest single menace on the Internet, dwarfing even the feared and mysterious Storm. Having compromised 300,000 PCs around the world, it was now sending out an estimated 60 billion spam e-mails per day, a torrent that consumes huge amounts of processing power to keep in check. "Srizbi is the single greatest spam threat we have ever seen. At its peak, the highly publicized Storm botnet only accounted for 20 percent of spam. Srizbi now produces more spam than all the other botnets combined," said Marshall's vice president of products. In March of this year, Marshall's threat research and content engineering team reported the botnet as a growing problem among a small family of super-botnets, a sign that a few highly successful bots were starting to monopolize traffic. Srizbi appears to spread by as part of the spam messages it sends, meaning that its life cycle extends to reproducing itself and not just distributing e-mail. This is not a unique feature, but it could be that it is either evading detection at this stage or tricking people using more sophisticated social engineering.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId>

[d=9085082&source=rss_topic17](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9085082&source=rss_topic17)

39. *May 12, Computerworld* – (International) **Hackers hijack a half-million sites in latest attack.** More than half a million Web sites have been compromised in a new round of attacks that hacked domains in order to infect unsuspecting users' PCs with a variety of malware, a security researcher said today. "This is an ongoing campaign, with new domains [hosting the malware] popping up even this morning," said a network architect at antivirus vendor Trend Micro Inc. "The domains are changing constantly." According to the Trend Micro representative, over half a million legitimate Web sites have been hacked by Tuesday's mass-scale attack, only the latest in a string that goes back to at least January. All of the sites, he confirmed, are running "phpBB," an open-source message forum manager. He did not know how the sites were compromised; Trend Micro's investigation is in progress, he said. "We're not sure if it's [because of] improper configuration of phpBB or a vulnerability. Open-source applications like phpBB tend to be targeted quite a bit." Visitors to a hacked site are redirected through a series of servers, until the last in the chain is reached; that server then pings the PC for any one of several vulnerabilities, including bugs in both Microsoft's Internet Explorer and RealNetworks' RealPlayer media player. If any of the vulnerabilities is present, the PC is exploited and malware is downloaded. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9084991&source=rss_topic17

40. *May 12, Dark Reading* – (National) **New intrusion tolerance technology treats attacks as inevitable.** First there was intrusion detection, then intrusion prevention, and now, intrusion tolerance. A professor and researcher at George Mason University is readying the commercial rollout of a new, patent-pending technology that basically assumes an attack or infection on a server is inevitable, so it instead minimizes the impact of an intrusion. Called self-cleansing intrusion tolerance (SCIT), the new security method does not replace IDS, IPS, firewalls, or other traditional security tools, but rather adds another layer that minimizes the damage of an attack, says the professor of computer science and director of the Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Computer Science at GMU in Fairfax, Va. "An intruder is going to get through irrespective of how much investment you make [with security tools] and how hard you try. It's about how you contain" an intrusion, he says. "Intrusion tolerance is different than intrusion detection and intrusion prevention – it doesn't do any detection and prevention," he says. "Today's servers are all exposed... we try to contain the losses by reducing the exposure time of the server to the Internet." The professor, who will outline his SCIT technology this week at IntrusionWorld in Baltimore, says the basic idea is to regularly rotate Web, DNS, or other servers on- and offline to "cleans" the exposed machine to a previously unblemished state that has never been online – and automatically have another clean (virtual) machine take its place. This cycle would occur at regular intervals, regardless of whether an intrusion had occurred or not. It's a fatalistic approach to Internet-borne attacks: "Because servers are online for such a long time, if someone wants to deliberately intrude, he has a sitting duck on which he can work," he says. Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=153621

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *May 12, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Feds: No credible terror threat to Indy 500.** A federal assessment says the Indianapolis 500 is an attractive target for terrorists - but there is no credible or specific threat aimed at the Memorial Day weekend race. In an internal FBI/Homeland Security Department assessment released Monday to local police, officials say such sporting events are attractive potential targets. It says they are inviting to terrorists because of the potential to inflict large numbers of casualties while the whole world is watching. An Indianapolis Motor Speedway spokesman says such assessments are typical before races at the Brickyard and other large sporting events. Officials estimate between 200,000 and 300,000 people from around the world will attend the Indy 500.

Source: http://www.wlfi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8312965&nav=menu591_1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

42. *May 11, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Sacramento prepares for the worst – massive flooding.** A recent state report predicts that the right combination of weather conditions could put some parts of Sacramento, California, under more than 20 feet of water, causing a \$25 billion disaster that would affect state government and the California economy. Authorities are racing against time to strengthen the earthen levees that ring nearly the entire city to hold back the swollen American and Sacramento rivers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the federal Bureau of Reclamation have all stepped up prevention efforts since

Hurricane Katrina. State flood experts and the governor are pushing to buttress the Central Valley's 1,600 miles of levees. The aim is to double Sacramento's flood protection over the next decade. Work began recently on a \$683 million Folsom Dam spillway channel that would more quickly lower the lake as a mega-storm approached the American River's 18,000-square-mile watershed. Along the Sacramento River, which drains 23,000 square miles of northern California, crews have reinforced aging levees near some of the most flood-prone neighborhoods. Amid farm fields north of downtown, the subdivisions of the Natomas Basin spread along the Sacramento River. A century ago, the river would reliably overflow and turn Natomas into a vast inland sea. Today, flood waters could be 23 feet deep if it were not for the levees. Although they were upgraded during the 1990s, those earthen walls are now deemed at risk by federal regulators, mostly because the standards have toughened since Katrina. If all goes according to plan, construction to shore up Natomas levees should begin next year. The basin's flood walls, capable of withstanding the sort of big storm that has a three percent likelihood of hitting in any given year, should be six times stronger by 2012.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-rivercity11-2008may11,0,4608266.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421
Removal from Distribution List:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-3421 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.